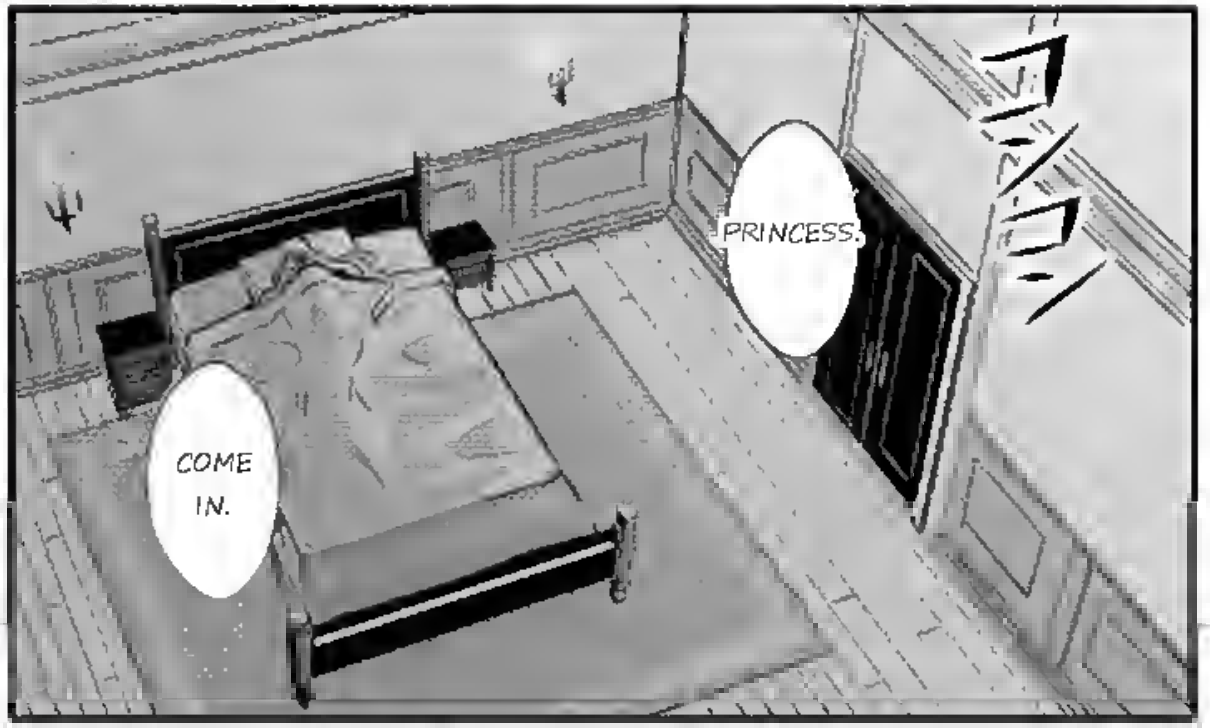
白の皇国物語 第二十五回
原作：白沢戌亥　漫画：不二まーゆ
IT MUST BE AT LEAST THE SIZE OF A CRUISER, IF NOT A BATTLESHIP.
IT'S MASSIVE...
I NEED TO CALM DOWN, MY JOB ISN'T TO BE SURPRISED.

AN AIR-RAID ALARM...
THEY'RE COMING!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU!
AS A SCOUT, IT'S MY DUTY TO RECORD THIS AND RETURN SAFELY!
SHIT, THE SNOW...

I'LL TAKE AS MANY PHOTOS AS I CAN!
THE KINGDOM'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT!
THIS THING IS PROBABLY THE EMPIRE'S TRUMP CARD.
ACTIVATE ACCELER-ATION MAGIC!
ALRIGHT, HEAD TOWARDS THE FORTRESS!

DON'T MAKE LIGHT OF THE KINGDOM'S SOLDIERS!
GAUGH!
CRAP, THERE'S MORE OF THEM!


PRINCESS.
COME IN.

AN UNIDENTIFIED AERIAL UNIT HAS INFILTRATED THE AIRSPACE AROUND WILMAGS,
WE BELIEVE IT MIGHT BE AN ENEMY SCOUT.

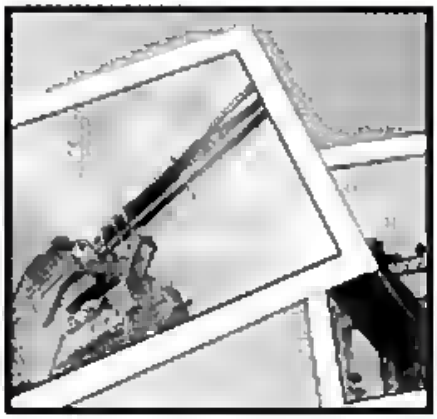
WHAT'S GOING ON THIS LATE?

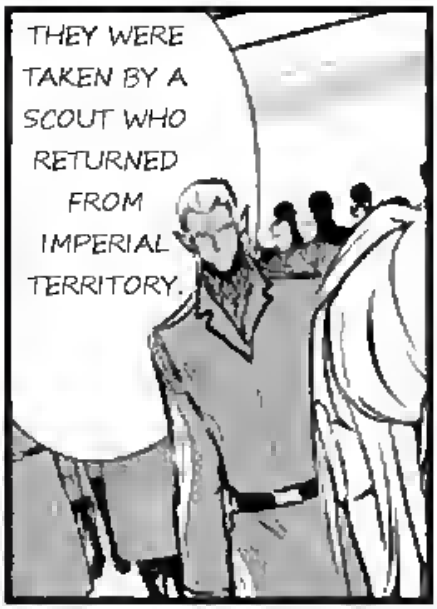
A SCOUT?
DID THEY LEARN OF THAT?
WE'RE NOT SURE, BUT IT'S QUITE LIKELY.
WELL, NO MATTER, THE KINGDOM CANNOT ACT IMMEDIATELY EVEN IF THEY DO KNOW.
I WANT THAT SCOUT SHOT DOWN.
OF COURSE.
THE DECISIVE BATTLE IS DRAWING NEAR...

YES, IT'S THE ONE THAT DEPARTED FROM VARMITT THIS MORNING.
SO ONE OF OUR SCOUTS CAME FROM THE DIRECTION OF IMPERIAL TERRITORY?
YES.
AND THOSE PICTURES WERE TAKEN WITH THE CAMERA HE WAS HOLDING?

BOTH HE AND THE DRAGON HE RODE WERE INJURED,
BUT HE WAS MORE FOCUSED ON GIVING US THE CAMERA...
IN THAT CASE
JUDGING BY THE BUILDINGS IN THE PHOTOS, WE BELIEVE THEY WERE TAKEN IN WILMAGS.

IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME UNTIL THE EMPIRE MAKES THEIR MOVE.
TELL THE OFFICERS TO GATHER IN HIS HIGNESS' OFFICE!
WE HAVE NO TIME TO WASTE.
IN-DEED.
WHAT COULD BE HAPPENING THIS LATE?




THEY WERE TAKEN BY A SCOUT WHO RETURNED FROM IMPERIAL TERRITORY.

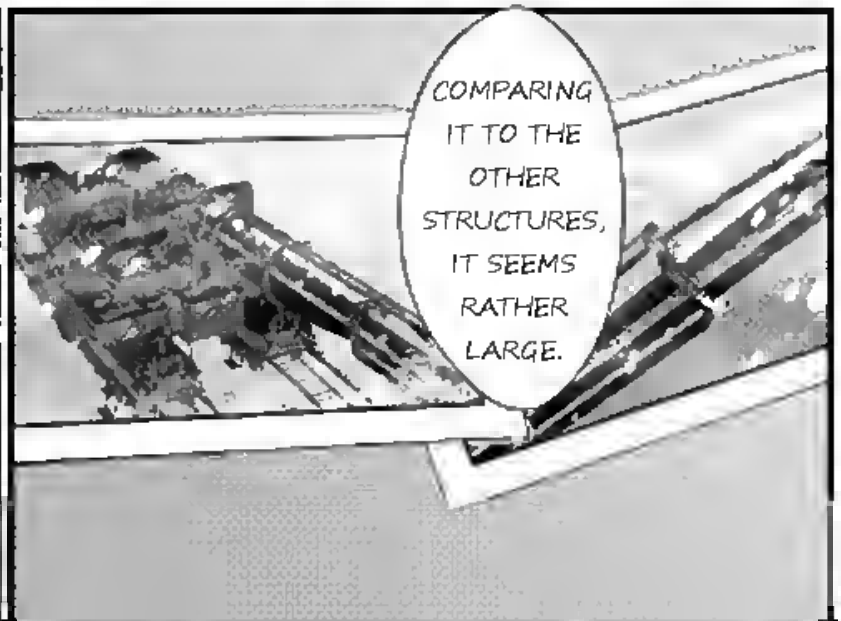
BUT I BELIEVE YOU SHOULD SEE THIS.
MY APOLOGIES FOR CALLING YOU HERE AT THIS HOUR,

THIS ISN'T GOOD...

I BELIEVE I SEE RAILS BELOW,

I'D EXPECT NOTHING LESS OF HIS HIGHNESS. HE LOOKED AT THE PHOTOS, GATHERED THE NECESSARY INFORMATION, AND RECOGNIZED THE DANGER.
IT'S EITHER A TRAIN GUN OR A SIEGE GUN.

THAT'S CORRECT, YOUR HIGHNESS.


COMPARING IT TO THE OTHER STRUCTURES, IT SEEMS RATHER LARGE.

THEN CUT TO THE CHASE,
JUST HOW DANGEROUS IS IT?
THAT GUN

THE BARREL SEEMS TO BE AIMED AT OUR FORTRESS.
SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE IN THE SUBURBS OF THE FORTIFIED CITY WILMAGS, ABOUT 42KM NORTH OF US.
BASED ON THE ESTIMATED LENGTH AND CALIBER AND THE AMMUNITION IT LIKELY USES,
HOW GREAT DO YOU BELIEVE THE PAYLOAD IS?
I BELIEVE

IT CAN DAMAGE THE FORTRESS ITSELF.
I DOUBT THE FORTRESS' BARRIERS COULD DEFEND AGAINST IT EVEN UNDER THE BEST CIRCUMSTANCES.
THE CALIBER IS LIKELY LARGER THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD.
I SEE...
.....

THEY HAVEN'T BEEN SPILLING BLOOD OVER THIS FORTRESS FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS FOR NOTHING.
THIS WEAPON MUST BE THE RESULT OF THEIR OBSESSION IN BREAKING THROUGH HERE.
YOUR HIGHNESS?
BUT STILL, FOR THIS TO BE THEIR TRUMP CARD...

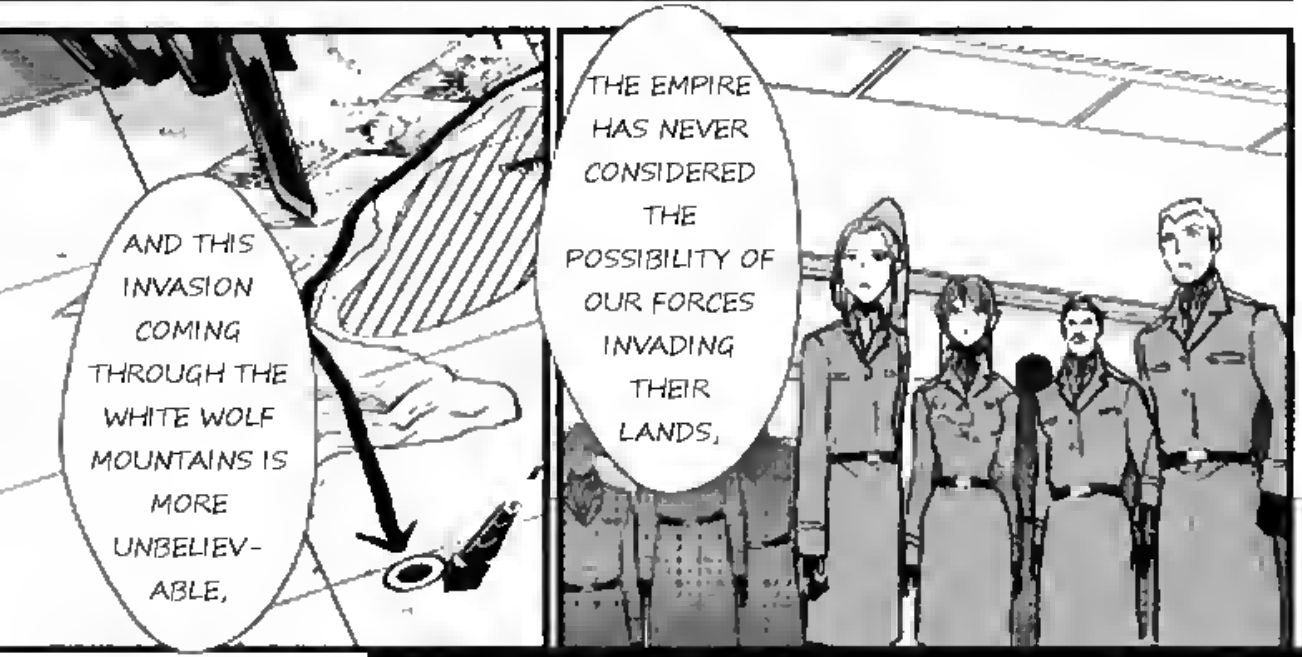
しかし政府で軍だがいた
BUT IT'S UNREASONABLE TO EXPECT THE MILITARY TO FUNCTION PERFECTLY
WE'VE BEEN NEGLIGENT. TO NOT HAVE NOTICED THIS MASSIVE GUN UNTIL NOW,
HUH? OH, SORRY.
WHEN THE REST OF THE COUNTRY WAS IN DISORDER.
WHAT'S THE PLAN?
I BELIEVE THIS IS THE BEST PLAN.
YOUR HIGHNESS,

I SEE...
しかし
BUT...
HE INTENDS TO PASS THROUGH THE WHITE WOLF MOUNTAINS?!
THE EMPIRE CERTAINLY WOULDN'T EXPECT IT,

I BELIEVE YOU WOULD HAVE MADE A GREAT SOLDIER, YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU'RE NOT SURPRISED AT ALL.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN SURPRISED,
BUT I REMEMBER A MAN FROM MY HOMELAND COMING UP WITH A SIMILAR PLAN
LONG AGO.
OH, THAT'S INTERESTING TO HEAR.
I DON'T BELIEVE ANYONE IN THE KINGDOM EVER CAME UP WITH A SIMILAR PLAN THOUGH...
BUT I BELIEVE THERE IS A BIG PROBLEM WITH THIS PLAN.
I'M SORRY

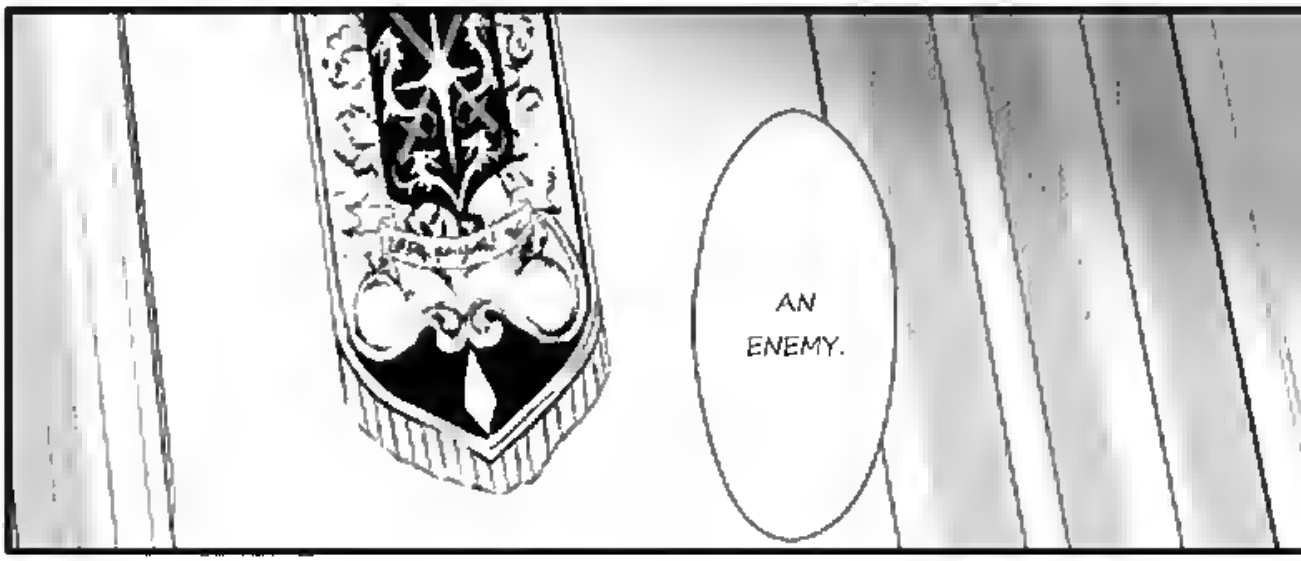
THE PREVIOUS KING NEVER EVEN CONSIDERED IT.
WE HAVE NEVER INVADED THE EMPIRE SINCE THEIR NATION WAS FOUNDED,
INDEED,
THAT WE ARE INVADING THE EMPIRE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE KINGDOM'S HISTORY,
CROSSING THE WHITE WOLF MOUNTAINS WOULD MEAN
WHICH IS WHY WE ARE ASSEMBLED HERE BEFORE HIS HIGHNESS.

THAT'S ENOUGH.


AND THIS INVASION COMING THROUGH THE WHITE WOLF MOUNTAINS IS MORE UNBELIEV-ABLE,
THE EMPIRE HAS NEVER CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF OUR FORCES INVADING THEIR LANDS,

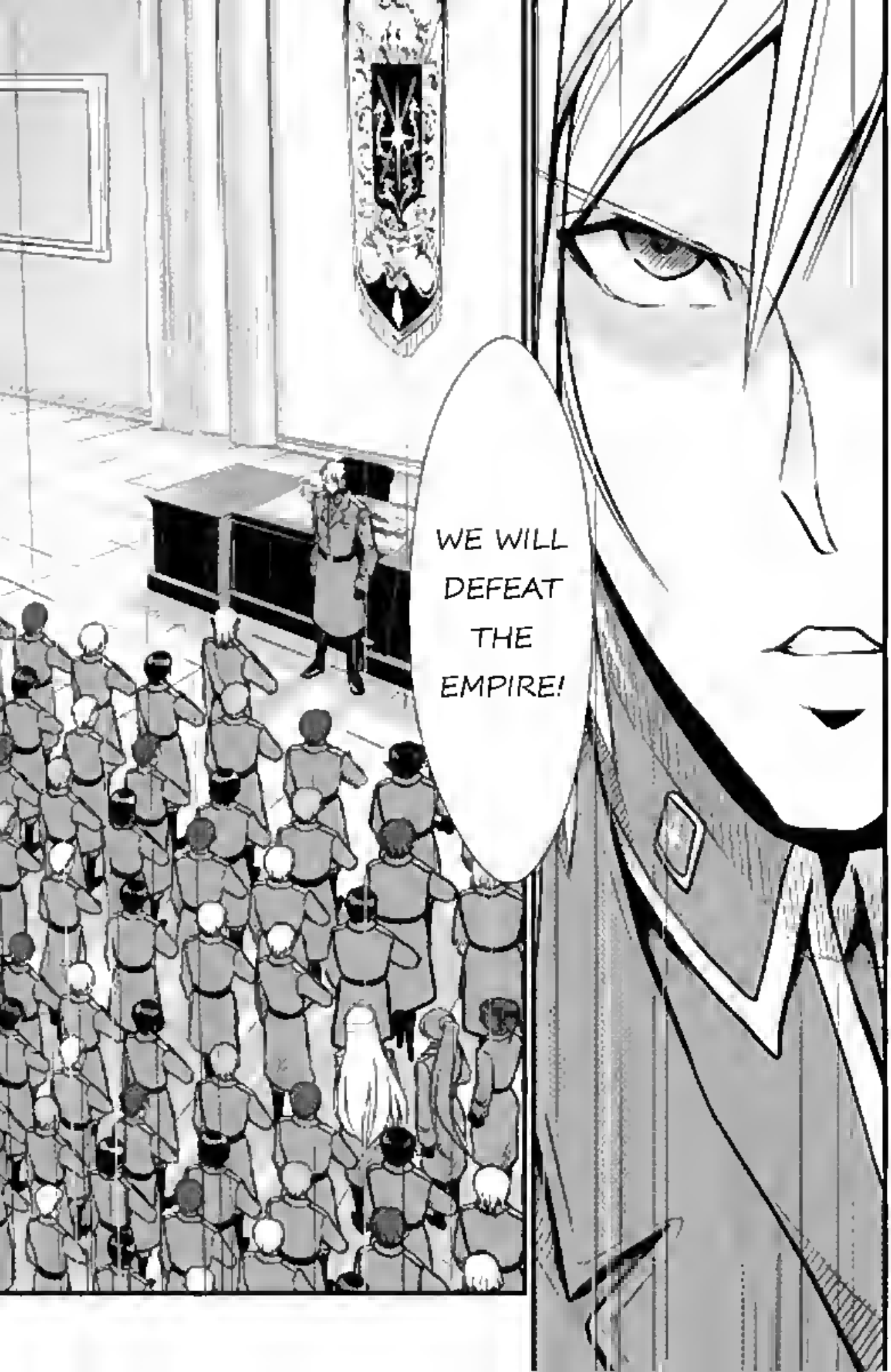
TO BEGIN WITH,
AND THIS OPPORTUNITY ONLY EXISTS BECAUSE OF THE PREVIOUS KINGS' ACTIONS.

THEY HAVE LOOKED DOWN ON US FOR TOO LONG.
INDEED, FROM THE MOMENT THEY DECIDED PAY WITH BLOOD, THEY BECAME


AN ENEMY.

AS THE REGENT OF ALTODESTENIA,
I EXPECT YOU ALL TO PROTECT OUR KINGDOM, AND ALLOW THE PEOPLE TO LIVE IN PEACE.

IT IS OUR DUTY TO ALLOW MEN TO PLOW THE FIELDS, WOMEN TO RAISE CHILDREN, AND THE ELDERLY TO DIE SATISFIED!
MY BODY IS NOT MY OWN BUT THE COUNTRY'S, YOU TOO SHOULD SEE YOUR BODIES NOT AS YOUR OWN BUT AS THE COUNTRY'S SWORD AND SHIELD!
IF YOU DISAGREE, THEN JUST RESIGN NOW, I WILL PERSONALLY ACCEPT YOUR LETTER OF RESIGNATION!
I WILL NOT FORGIVE THOSE THAT WOULD SEEK TO HARM THE PEOPLE I WISH TO PROTECT!
THE EMPIRE HAS GROWN ARROGANT, SO I WILL STRIKE THEM DOWN, EVEN IF I HAVE TO THROW MY LIFE!


WE WILL DEFEAT THE EMPIRE!